

**HOUSING OPTIONS MADE EASY,
INC
PRESENTS
STRAWW
RECOVERY CENTER**

**Joseph Woodward
Chief Executive Officer
2015 Annual NYAPRS Conference**





WHO WE ARE

Housing Options Made Easy, Inc.

is a not-for-profit supported housing and community support agency developed and operated by and for recipients of mental health services in which operates over 425 scattered site apartments in 9 counties and a multi-county (3)

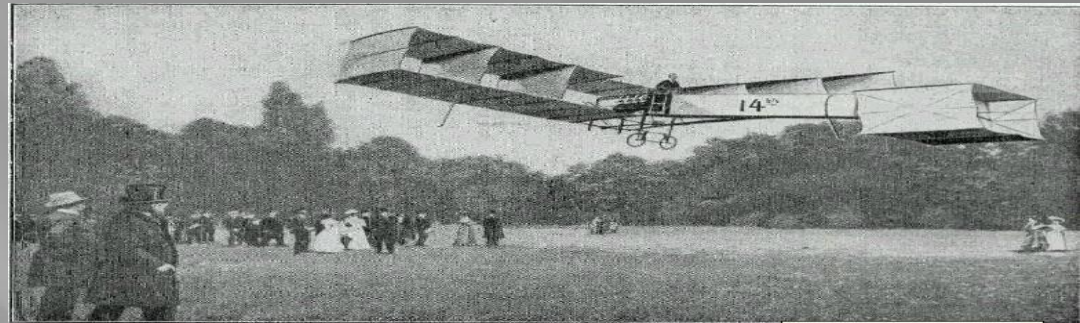
Recovery Center in Western New York, Transitional Youth program, 2 warm lines, 2 respite houses and a Peer Bridger program

There is no medicine like hope, no incentive so great, no tonic so powerful as the expectation of something better tomorrow.

-- O.S. Marden, American physician and writer

History of Housing Options

- Housing Options began in 1990, when a group of past and present mental health peers recognized the need to advocate for better and safer housing for individuals being discharged from the hospitals. By the time of the agency's 10th anniversary the agency went from 30 crisis beds to 180 beds covering four counties - Erie , Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, and Allegany.
- Since 2006, Housing Options Made Easy has expanded services to include Niagara and Monroe counties and currently we have over 425 scattered site apartments, Along with a multi-county Recovery Center. The staff increased from 19 to 80 (in which 95% are peers) who work out of a main office and 5 satellite's. And our budget grew from approximately 1.8 million to approximately 5 million dollars.
- We are involved with many county, NY state, federal and other states recovery and peer initiatives. We have become nationally known for the peer services and how we operate our peer run agency.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Agency provides services that are peer driven
- Our board is to be no less than 51% peers
- Majority of staff are recipients, currently 95%
- We operate a housing first model
- Treat people as individuals and not a diagnoses
- Develop services that reflect individuality
- Respectful treatment and understanding of individual choice
- Encourage self responsibility and community integration in personal decision making
- Our foundation is: choice, empowerment, independency, community integration, hope, role modeling, guidance, healing, responsibility, participation, amongst many others.

Recovery Guides

What we do:

Recovery Guides will assist the program participants in providing opportunities for interest exploration, volunteer and employment goals by offering peer support and personal goal setting.

Meet individuals in the community by attending programs and agencies that serve individuals in recovery and help utilize the community to create volunteer, educational or employment opportunities.

Recovery Guides will work with participants that have a self-identified goal individually through referral from a community service provider

How we do it:

- ▣ Utilizing a person centered approach Recovery Guides meet with individuals that are in the recovery process. Providing services without walls by meeting the individual where they are instead of having the person come to a building for all their services.
- ▣ Utilizing an interest inventory or self-identified goals Recovery Guides will link participants to community activities, agencies or services.
- ▣ The program will also create events that promote recovery to be determined by participants.



Why we do it

Southern Tier Recovery Activities without Walls and our other Recovery Guides are structured to promote personal wellness, help reduce high-end services, reduce potential barriers in rural populations so that all persons in recovery can find their “spark of life.”

We don't want
To see missed
Opportunities!!

Rediscover! Re-purpose!
Re-kindle!!!!



Continued

- ▣ • Assist the individual in meeting goals as indicated on their service plan through unique and personalized plans
- ▣ • Linkage and support program participants in activities that help the person obtain self-identified goals
- ▣ • Offer services and supports that meet the persons needs and goals in a setting that is outside of the building whenever possible
- ▣ • Seek creative and collaborative options to reduce potential barriers to an individual succeeding in their objectives. Ie; transportation
- ▣ • Use person-centered language and strength based services
- ▣ • Respectful, courteous communication to everyone we work with
- ▣ • Confidentiality must be maintained at all times, consent will be required to communicate to anyone outside of the program regarding individuals in our program
 - Keep track of the services provided to assist you in completing your weekly activity report

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

- Review the Program Co Agreement with the individual to start
- Complete a Data Statistical Information form
- • Assist the individual with the completion of the initial Assessment Survey
- • Fill out a meeting note for the file, make sure the individual signs the meeting note
- • Complete an interest inventory with the individual
- • Develop a Wellness Recovery Action Plan with the individual within 30 days. Please note that the form does not need to be completed on one visit. Supervisor can allow up to 60 days to complete based on individual circumstances
- • Start the process of completing an Individual Service Plan, this plan will help guide and shape the services the individual would need to move toward their goals
- • Utilize the ISP development tool in the development of the Individual Service Plan (utilizes the Passport for success through volunteering and work model)

AS OF APRIL 2014

STRAWW is currently serving 137 individuals

- **28/20%** of individuals served are maintained or improved current employment status.
- **59/43%** have become employed or are actively seeking employment opportunities.
- **35/26%** are involved with educational opportunities
- **Total: 122/89%** of the individuals we are currently serving are maintaining or improved employment, have become or seeking employment or involved in educational opportunities
- **84/61%** of the individuals we are serving have been involved in community integration or social activities within the last 30 days.

For Additional Information:

Housing Options Made Easy, Inc.

75 Jamestown Street

Gowanda, New York 14070

Phone 716-532-5508 or 1-800-421-1114

joe@housingoptions.org

Best Practice in Supportive Housing for Families

Author: Nancy J. Wewiorski

<http://homelessness.samhsa.gov/resource/view.aspx?id=48233>

www.housingoptions.org

